



Iowa Department of Human Services

Kim Reynolds
Governor

Adam Gregg
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Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1806-MC-FFS

DATE: June 20, 2017

TO: Iowa Medicaid Hospitals (Excluding Indian Health Service)

APPLIES TO: Managed Care, Fee-for-Service

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Reimbursement of Emergency Room (ER) Visits

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

The state fiscal year (SFY) 2012/13 Human Services appropriations bill, House File 649, section 10 Medical Assistance, included a number of legislatively mandated cost-containment initiatives. One such initiative was to modify the reimbursement methodology to either reduce or eliminate payment for nonemergency services rendered in a hospital emergency room. The IME was required to implement this cost containment measure. This legislative enactment remains good law and is binding on the Iowa Medicaid program and its members and participating providers. This cost containment measure was further codified under 441 Iowa Administrative Code 79.1(16)(r).

Informational Letter (IL) [1753-MC-FFS¹](#) was issued on December 23, 2016, to remind providers regarding the limits to the reimbursement for ER visits. Previous guidance on ER visits had been issued under IL [1025²](#) and IL [1116³](#). IL [1753-MC-FFS](#) provided further clarification and supersedes any guidance in the previous two ILs where conflicts existed. This IL serves as a reminder that IL [1758-MC-FFS](#) supersedes any IL or any guidance before it was issued.

The IME appreciates your continued partnership. If you have questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.

¹ https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1753-MC-FFS_EmergencyRoomVisits-Reimbursement.pdf

² http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1025_EmergencyRoomVisitsCopaymentandReimbursementChanges.pdf

³ http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1116_ReportingReferralonEmergencyRoomVisits.pdf